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lines of investigation) to consider carefully the handwriting of the person in question in order to ascertain therefrom, whether or not the person is suffering from a psychosis, and if so, the probable extent of the effects of such condition.

These two suggested lines of investigation are based upon present-day technical college courses, to which are added outgrowths therefrom, derived through practical experience. In using them it must always be remembered that, although the presence of a *single* evidence of psychosis may serve to "tag" a person, it does not necessarily prove him to be legally incompetent; the presence of one swallow does not necessarily prove that summer is here.

WEBSTER A. MELCHER, Philadelphia, Pa.

COURTS—LAWS.

Bill to Abolish Capital Punishment in the District of Columbia.—The following bill (S. 4056) was introduced by Senator La Follette on January 28, 1916. It was read twice and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section eight hundred and one, chapter nineteen, of the Code of Law for the District of Columbia is hereby amended by striking out the words "death by hanging," and substituting therefor the words "imprisonment for life," and by striking out the words "for life, or" so as to read:

"SEC. 801. PUNISHMENT. The punishment of murder in the first degree shall be imprisonment for life. The punishment of murder in the second degree shall be imprisonment for not less than twenty years."

SEC. 2. That section eight hundred and eight, chapter nineteen, of the said code, is hereby amended by striking out the provisos after the words "thirty years."

SEC. 2 takes from jury right to impose penalty for rape.

SEC. 3. That section nine hundred and nine of the said code is hereby amended by striking out the words "any crime punishable by death" and substituting therefor the words "murder in the first degree."

SEC. 4. That section nine hundred and twenty-six, chapter twenty, and sections eleven hundred and ninety-eight, eleven hundred and ninety-nine, twelve hundred, twelve hundred and one, twelve hundred and two, and twelve hundred and three, chapter thirty-five, of the said code, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. That this Act shall be in force from and after its passage: *Provided*, That if at the time of the passage of this Act there are persons confined in the jail who have been adjudged to suffer death, the Supreme Court of the District shall commute their sentences to imprisonment for life.

SEC. 909 relates to punishment of accessories.

SEC. 926 relates to time of execution.

SECS. 1198-1203 relates to method, and place of execution, and who must, may, and may not attend.

PHILIP WALKER, Washington, D. C.

To amend the Code of Criminal Procedure in relation to the summation of a case (N. Y. Assembly Bill Int. 362 pr. 363).—This bill seeks to change the law in regard to the summing up in a criminal case by providing that the